

Reader picture essay



Courtesy: Priyanshi Nahata

Wildebeest drink at the water's edge on a river in the Serengeti while keeping a keen eye out for the danger that lurks beneath — crocodiles.



Courtesy: Priyanshi Nahata

The Grumeti River, in western Serengeti, poses one of the most serious obstacles to the herd. Here, wildebeest stall before attempting the dangerous journey.

The cycle of life and the wildebeest's race for survival

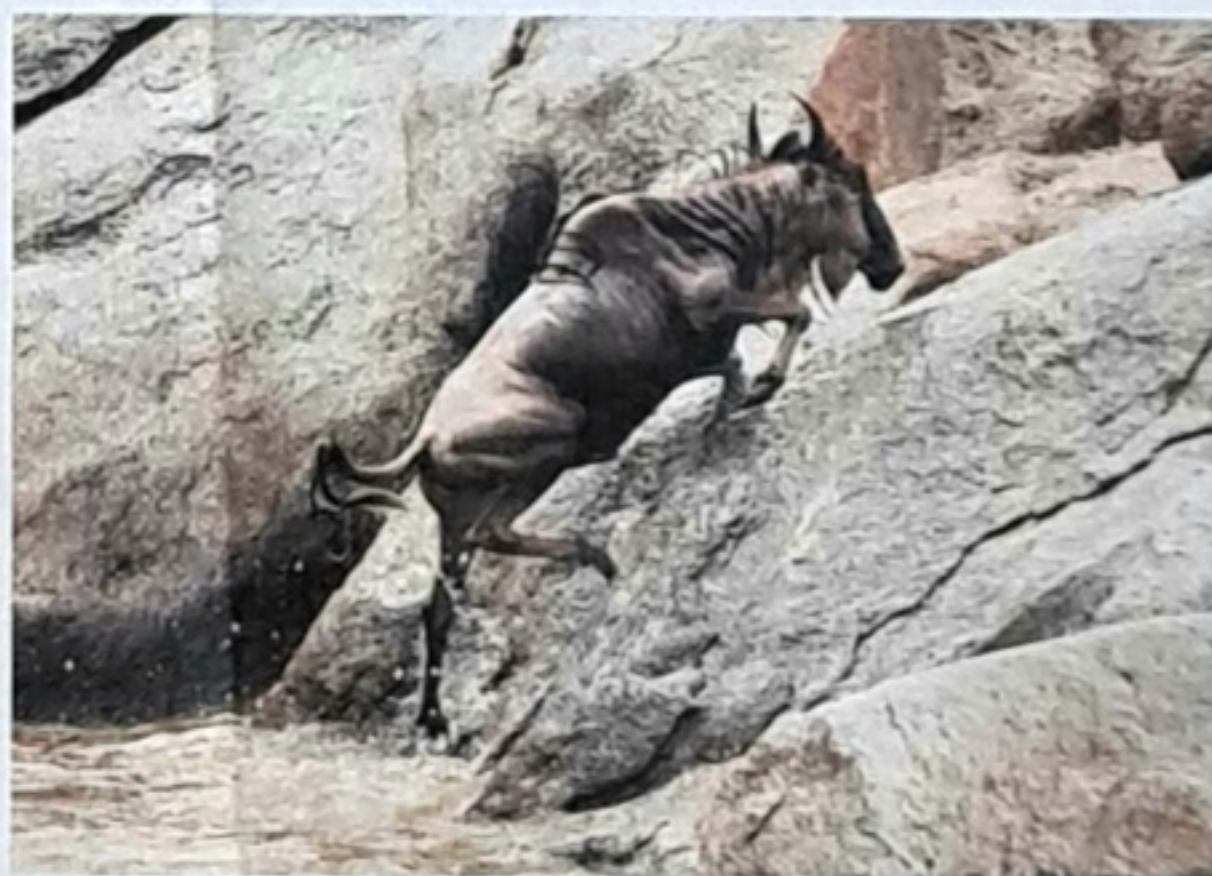
When United Nations delegates met in Stockholm in 1972 to choose the first World Heritage Sites, Tanzania's Serengeti came out on top of the list. The vast plains of Serengeti National Park comprise 1.5 million hectares of savannah, and witness the annual migration of 2 million wildebeests, along with thousands of gazelles and zebras. Gulf News reader Priyanshi Nahata sent us these pictures. Editor's note: Send us your picture essays at readers@gulfnews.com



Top: Nahata said: 'As soon you see one of the wildebeest jumping in the water, you know that the great crossing has begun. All of them try to swim to the other side.'

Right: Nahata said: 'They often become a waiting crocodile's meal, some die in the stampede or end up fighting for their life in the strong currents'

Bottom: But victory comes to those who are patient. This particular wildebeest sprang free, and raced into the Mara forest to join the herd.



Left: Nahata said: 'One of the wildebeest made several attempts to make it to the other side. Every time it made an attempt to climb, it would slide down, back in the river.'

Bottom: The cycle ends when the wildebeest cluster in the north-eastern Serengeti, to begin calving, until the end of the next rainy season drives them to the great migration once again.

